

our country, the cost of medicine will skyrocket and the availability is going to shrink?

Mr. BURGESS. I think access is going to be severely, severely restricted. A woman who is the head of the Columbia University residency program, an OB-GYN, Columbia University has a very good residency program, perhaps second only to Parkland Hospital where I did my residency, this individual told me that currently they were accepting people into their residency program that 5 years ago they would not have even interviewed. That is, the quality of applicant has dropped off so significantly because people simply fear this issue. They see no reason to enter a life where there is going to be this much uncertainty. So it is really extracting a high toll as far as the availability of our future providers, not just what is happening right now, but what is happening for our children and our children's children.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman. If we have the Edwards-Kerry trial lawyer ticket, we probably will not have any serious medical liability reform, would we?

Mr. BURGESS. That is my firm belief as well.

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I think we had a good discussion here today. I notice my friends on the other side of the aisle are here chomping at the bit and I know are eagerly awaiting freedom of speech, equal time; and my friend from California is grabbing the mike right now for a discussion.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HARRIS). The Chair will remind all Members to refrain from improper references to individual Senators. While references to Members in their capacity as presumptive nominees for the Presidency and Vice Presidency are not prohibited, references to other Members of the Senate must be consistent with clause 1 of rule XVII.

#### WHO IS IN CONTROL?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to say to my friend from Georgia, when he is talking about past Vice President Dan Quayle, what he needed to do was know how to spell potato.

Madam Speaker, last week President Bush was asked what distinguishes Vice President DICK CHENEY from Senator JOHN EDWARDS, JOHN KERRY's Vice Presidential running mate. Mr. Bush's haughty reply was, "DICK CHENEY can be President."

This implied criticism of Senator EDWARDS, who happens to sit on the prominent Senate Intelligence Committee. And this is quite laughable be-

cause Senator EDWARDS actually has more experience than George W. Bush did at the time he ran for office in the year 2000.

The appalling part of this comment is that not only could DICK CHENEY be President, he has performed the functions of the Presidency. Since day one, DICK CHENEY has wheeled, dealt and cajoled his way to accomplish his dangerous, self-serving, neo-conservative agenda.

DICK CHENEY has chomped at the bit to finish the job he started in 1991 as Secretary of Defense when the United States first went to war with Iraq. In the year 2003 when President Bush needed to make the case for going to war with Iraq, it was DICK CHENEY who met with the intelligence analysts at the CIA to determine whether Iraq possessed nuclear weapons.

Vice President CHENEY claims that he did not strong-arm these analysts into adopting his view that Iraq was in possession of weapons of mass destruction. Despite what I am sure were CHENEY's best and most benevolent intentions, the Vice President of the United States probably registered quite a bit of influence with a bunch of career CIA analysts who were likely to give him the evidence he wanted, whether it was true or not. And it was Vice President CHENEY, not President Bush, the Commander in Chief, who gave the unsuccessful order to shoot down the hijacked planes on September 11. At a time when America was being attacked, it was Vice President CHENEY who made the important decisions.

By now this pattern should be quite clear. Vice President CHENEY does the real work of the administration, making the key decisions in our times of greatest need.

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When George Bush says that DICK CHENEY can be President, he is right, but that says more about President Bush's own failure of leadership than it says anything about Vice President CHENEY's abilities.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. They deserve better than a man-behind-the-man presidency. Senator JOHN EDWARDS will not be the kind of Vice President who will falsify intelligence for the purposes of sending our young men and women to war. As a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, he knows better.

We need leaders who will not abdicate the Constitution in the name of political opportunism, a Presidential team that will pursue smarter policies than those of the current administration.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, the SMART security resolution, which provides a much smarter national security platform than the one we currently have. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism. SMART security means confronting the threat of terrorism not by creating more terrorism, as the

Bush administration has done in Iraq, but by striking at the very heart of the real terror networks.

SMART would cut off financing for terrorist groups and would break up of their organizations around the world, engaging the international community in this process, the same international community the Bush administration so callously disregarded in its march to war.

SMART security provides a better path for America than the one we are currently on. Could DICK CHENEY be President? Sure, if you do not mind the fact that the real President is asleep at the wheel, but JOHN EDWARDS, who could step in for JOHN KERRY on a moment's notice, will not be a shadow President because JOHN KERRY will lead this country on a truly smart path.

The voters will decide in November what they want: an administration that unnecessarily sent American troops into a war that has cost the lives of thousands, or a Kerry-Edwards administration that will be smart about America's national security.

#### ELECTIONS, NOT FEAR, MAKE AMERICA STRONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HARRIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, elections, not fear, make America strong.

I just returned this afternoon from my district. All last weekend, everywhere I went in Seattle people kept asking me the same question, are they really going to take away our election? Now, I did not go to the secret briefing that they had last week. It is my practice and my policy not to go to secret briefings.

The day after the briefing, however, there was a stunning administration press conference revealing that the Department of Homeland Security thinks we should all be more afraid but that things are not bad enough to raise the terror alert level from yellow, and we should all be vigilant, but not about anything specific.

Now, that secret meeting that they had the day before had everybody's mouth zipped shut in this place. Then they go out on the street and say what they told us not to talk about; and, by the way, we need to figure out how to legally delay the election, just in case. That was the bottom line, what they were talking about. The homeland security spokesman referred to this as an effort "to determine what steps need to be taken to secure the election." Please, folks, could we not at least avoid the Orwellian language?

Now we have got the people flooded with fear, and the conspiracy theorists are having a field day. It is everywhere, in all the clips today in the paper, everywhere all across the country just